

NNNNRTTUZYUW RUTLAAA0623 0271615-UUUU--RUMTFI.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZYN

R 271614Z JAN 77

FM FBIS WASHDC

TO FBIS BANGKOK THAILAND

FBWA

BT

UNCLAS

590

WA424

STAT

REF BK492 ON BANGKOK SOURCELINE: YOUR CASE THAT BANGKOK MORNING PROGRAM IN ENGLISH PROBABLY INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC AUDIENCE IS VALID, BUT WE CAN MAKE EQUALLY GOOD CASE FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE SOURCELINE ON BASIS OF INFORMATION ON FILE HERE AND TECHNICAL OBSERVATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE FBIS WILL BE ADOPTING AN INTERNATIONAL/DOMESTIC SOURCELINE FOR THIS TYPE OF SITUATION IN NEAR FUTURE, THINK IT BEST YOU CONTINUE TO USE DOMESTIC SOURCELINE UNTIL THAT TIME. PEACE. 27/1616Z JAN

BT

#0623

Ops 9-0
source: b1

RTTUZFDY RUMTFIA1219 0180629 RUEO-UUUU--RUTLAAB,

RTTUZYUW RUMTFIA1219 0180629-UUUU--RUTLAAB,

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R 182627Z JAN 77

FM FBIS BANGKOK

TO FBIS WASHDC

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UNCLAS RUMT

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BK 492

STAT

REF WA259 ON BANGKOK RADIO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS BASED PARTLY ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THAI PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, PARTLY ON RECORDS HERE, AND PARTLY RECOLLECTION OF MONITORS AND EDITORS:

ALTHOUGH THE RADIO THAILAND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE CARRIED FROM 0915 TO 1425 GMT HAS BEEN IN SERVICE FOR MANY YEARS, THE MORNING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE (2330-0155 GMT) WAS ONLY INITIATED ON 1 NOVEMBER 1975. YOU MAY RECALL THAT IT WAS JUST PRIOR TO THIS THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT BANNED ALL FOREIGN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTING ON GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCIAL STATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, A MOVE THAT GENERATED CONSIDERABLE PROTEST FROM FOREIGNERS LIVING IN AND AROUND BANGKOK AS WELL AS FROM THAIS WHO ENJOYED THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MUSIC AND NEWS PROGRAMS CARRIED BY SEVERAL COMMERCIAL STATIONS.

FEELING HERE IS THAT IT WAS SPECIFICALLY IN RESPONSE TO THIS PROTEST THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT INITIATED THE MORNING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE ON THE MW (920 KHZ) AND FM (97 MHZ)

However, note first graph of BK 170633Y attached which says, among other things, that Lds Thailand's English language news in the morning can "also" be heard in Thailand. News are still produced by Radio Thailand's overseas service.

KHZ) AS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE WAS MORE OR LESS INCIDENTAL;
THE FACT THAT A DIFFERENT OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH SEEMS LESS
SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TO THE OVERSEAS AUDIENCE IS USED FOR THE
MORNING CAST ADDS CREDENCE TO THIS BELIEF;

EVENING CAST OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT:

"THIS IS RADIO THAILAND EUROPE AND ASIA SERVICE, BROADCASTING
DAILY PROGRAMS IN LAO, CHINESE, THAI, ENGLISH, VIETNAMESE,
CAMBODIAN, MALAY AND BURMESE ON THE FREQUENCIES OF 11,905 AND
9,655 MEGAHERTZ. LISTENERS IN EUROPE AND ASIA CAN TUNE IN TO US
FROM 0915 TO 1425 GMT, AND LISTENERS IN THAILAND CAN ALSO LISTEN
TO THESE PROGRAMS ON 920 KHZ AND 97 MHZ FM FROM 1615 TO 2125
BANGKOK TIME."

MORNING CAST OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT:

"THIS IS THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING RADIO STATION OF THAILAND,
BROADCASTING IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR OVERSEAS LISTENERS ON
11,905 AND 9,655 MHZ, AND FOR LOCAL LISTENERS ON 920 KHZ ON THE AM
BAND AND 97 MHZ ON THE FM BAND. THIS PROGRAM IS BROADCAST DAILY
FROM 0630 TO 0855 LOCAL TIME IN THAILAND, OR FROM 2330 TO 0155 GMT."

THUS, FEELING HERE IS THAT WHILE 0915-1425 GMT CAST IS DEFINITELY
INTENDED FOR THE OVERSEAS AUDIENCE (ALTHOUGH IT IS ALSO RELAYED ON
AM AND FM LOCALLY), THE 2330-0155 GMT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE
(NO OTHER LANGUAGES ARE BROADCAST) IS INTENDED AT LEAST AS MUCH
(AND PROBABLY MORE) FOR THE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE AS FOR THE OVERSEAS
LISTENERS. WOULD PREFER THEREFORE TO EITHER LEAVE SOURCELINE AS
DOMESTIC SERVICE OR CHANGE TO DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TO
MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT BEAMING, IF THIS IS FELT NECESSARY;

18/0638Z JAN

BT

#1219

RITUZYUW RUTLAAA0124 0062129-UUUU--RUMTFI.

ZNR UUUUU ZZH ZYN

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FM FBIS WASHDC

TO FBIS BANGKOK THAILAND

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OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT BANGKOK ENGLISH STARTED LONG AGO AS A SHORTWAVE SERVICE PRIMARILY FOR LISTENERS ABROAD AND THAT THE FM AND MEDIUMWAVE PARALLELS ARE OF COMPARATIVELY RECENT ORIGIN. IT APPEARS THAT THESE PARALLELS ARE INCIDENTAL TRANSMISSIONS INTENDED FOR FOREIGNERS IN THAILAND. SUGGEST CHANGING SOURCELINE TO: "BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH." PLEASE ADVISE. 06/2133Z JAN

BT

#0124